different commodities of freight and different segments of passenger business is partially responsible for the declining share of Railways in the total transport system.

(d) Corrective measures with respect to above have been initiated in the Railway Budget presented to Parliament for the year 2002-03 *e.g.*

(i) Rationalization of freight rate structure to remove the anomalies and thereby making the freight rates more attractive.

(ii) Rationalization of fares for different classes of travel in passenger services, with indexing of the fare structure in the upper classes, with respect to the second class fare.

Administrative cost of Railways

1031. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the administrative costs of Railways have been on the increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken to control the administrative costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The administrative costs on Indian Railways is represented by

Demand No. 3. 'General Superintendence and Services on Railways'. The expenditure incurred under this demand in the last three years is given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in cr.)
1998-99	1273
1999-2000	1385
2000-01	1420

(c) Efforts are being made to contain the expenditure in the following areas:—

i. Hospitality
ii. Commercial Advertisements and publicity
iii. Air Travel
iv. Other travelling expenses
v. Postage/Courier services
vi. Overtime allowance in offices
vii. Fees and honoraria
viii. Petrol, Diesel for road vehicles.
ix. Telephone charges especially STDs
x. Seminars/Workshops/Training
xi. Photo-copiers, fax machines
xii. Procurement of furniture and fixures
xiii. Stationery, etc.

Cost-effective strategies to improve Railway Equipment

1032. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three day International Conference on evolving cost-effective strategies to improve the Railway equipment was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the outcome of the conference?